

**Abstract of the Invention**

This invention is directed to a method of making an olefin product from an oxygenate feedstock and a method of protecting catalytic activity of a

5 silicoaluminophosphate molecular sieve. The methods comprise providing a silicoaluminophosphate molecular sieve having catalytic sites within the molecular sieve; shielding the catalytic sites to protect from loss of catalytic activity; and contacting the protected sieve in its activated state with an oxygenate feedstock under conditions effective to produce an olefin product before

10 undesirable loss of catalytic activity. Undesirable loss in catalytic activity occurs when activated molecular sieve contacting the oxygenate feedstock has a methanol uptake index of at least 0.15.